





Open Science Policy

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1. Introduction


Open science represents a paradigm shift in scientific practice, because it promotes that the results and processes of scientific research are openly available to both the rest of the research community and society in general. Publications and research data must be permanently accessible, comprehensible, reproducible and reusable. This is intended to facilitate shared use, cooperation and social responsibility. Ultimately, the aim is nothing other than openness, the exchange of information and greater transparency of knowledge in all areas of society.

The IRBLeida strategic plan includes the development of an open science policy, as well as the development of activities aimed at promoting access and deposit of data and publications in recognized repositories (3.2.2.2. Dissemination in Society). These actions have been aligned with public policies on open science at the regional, national and international levels.

Thus, the Science Law 9/2022 of December 2022 acts as the backbone of open science in Catalonia, establishing six axes around which the open science strategy of Catalonia will revolve: 1) Open access to publications; 2) The management of research data; 3) The availability of infrastructures for open science; 4) The capacities and competences of people; 5) Incentives and rewards; 6) Open knowledge to society

At the state level, the recent publication by the Ministry of Science and Innovation of the National Open Science Strategy (ENCA) focuses the effort on six dimensions, which coincide partially with those described in Catalan law; 1) Open access to research results; 2) Open data, protocols and methodologies; 3) Open source platforms; 4) Open peer review; 5) Citizen science; 6) New ways to measure research performance.

At an international level, the European Commission defends the need to consider open science as an instrument that verifies the processes of funding, execution, communication and evaluation of research results. The importance of using open and collaborative procedures and tools that improve the dissemination and accessibility of knowledge is recognised. Open science has become the new paradigm on which research activity financed with European public funds through the Horizon Europe program must be based.

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2. IRBLleida's Open Science Policy

The Institute for Research in Biomedicine of Lleida (IRBLleida) is firmly committed both to the implementation of open science policies and to the participation of society in scientific research through citizen science actions. These approaches are fundamental to promoting more accessible, inclusive and collaborative research.

On the one hand, IRBLleida considers that open science is essential to advance scientific knowledge and maximize its impact. Therefore, we want to promote the dissemination of research results in an open and freeway, either through open access publications, institutional repositories or the adoption of licenses that allow the use and reuse of works. To do this, the institute provides support and advice to its researchers so that they can comply with the principles of open science at all stages of their work.

In addition, IRBLleida is firmly committed to citizen science. It recognizes the value and potential of involving society in scientific research. The institute promotes the active participation of the community in different scientific projects, either through data collection, collaboration in decision making or the dissemination of results. IRBLleida also organises scientific outreach activities, such as workshops, talks and open-door conferences, which seek to bring biomedical research closer to citizens and foster their active participation in knowledge generation.

In this context, the areas covered by IRBLleida's open science policy are three:

- a) open access to scientific production; b) data generated in open and FAIR; and c) citizen science.


2.1. Open access to scientific production

2.1.1 Definition

Open Access is free access to information and the unrestricted use of digital resources by all people. Any type of digital content can be published in open access, from texts and databases to software and audio, video and multimedia media. Although most of the digital content available is mainly made up of text, an increasing number of resources combines texts with images, databases and executable files.

A publication can be considered in open access if it meets the following conditions:

- It is possible to access its content freely and universally, at no cost to the reader, through the Internet or any other means.


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- The author or the owner of the copyright grants to all potential users, irrevocably and for an unlimited period of time, the right to use, copy or distribute the content, with the only condition that due credit is given to its authorship.
- The integral version of the content has been deposited, in an appropriate electronic format, in at least one open access repository internationally recognized as such and committed to open access.

In order for the research community to be able to share their work openly, expanding the dissemination and impact of the results of their studies, there are three types of ways to publish in open access:

- Publish in open access magazines (golden road). There is no barrier to access to the contents, and copyright is also used to allow their reuse, usually by license, provided that the integrity of the published works is respected and its authorship is recognized.
- Publish in open repositories (green road). Most publishers allow to deposit in an open repository a reproduction of the published article or a preliminary version (Preprint or postprint).
- Publish in hybrid magazines: Some magazines operating under a paid or subscription model offer the option of publishing articles in open access by paying an additional fee.


This allows the articles to be available openly in the journal, even if the rest of the contents of the journal are of limited access.

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2.2.2 IRBLleida Policy

IRBLleida promotes the dissemination and open access to research, facilitating collaboration and the exchange of knowledge for the benefit of the scientific community and society in general. To this end, an institutional policy has been established that incorporates the following measures:

- Any academic publication (articles, book chapters, doctoral theses, communications at congresses, etc.) must be deposited in the open repository of the University of Lleida (UdL; <https://repositori.udl.cat/home>), linked to the Research Portal of Catalonia ([CORA.PRC](#)). It is important to note that even if an article is published in an open access journal (golden road), the deposit is also required in the open repository of the UdL.
- Published documents must be deposited in open access as soon as possible or in the form of open access, if required by the editorial policy.
- Preferably submit the final version published and, if it is not possible because the publisher does not allow it or no funding is available for the cost of an open publication, the final accepted version (postprint).
- Publish, whenever possible, under an open license, type 'Creative Commons'. These licenses allow to publicly grant the right to use a publication protected by copyright, thus favoring its dissemination, distribution, reuse and reproduction.
- The IRBLleida Project Unit (projects@irblleida.cat), in coordination with the UdL library, will be in charge of managing the repository of documentation in cases where publications are not open. In these cases, the researchers responsible will be contacted to provide the corresponding preprint or postprint manuscript.
- Researchers who want to personally deposit their publications in this repository can request an appointment with the management staff of the Project Unit to receive personalized training on this topic.

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2. 2. Open generated and “Fair” data


2.2.1. Definition-

Since the Horizon 2020 framework program and its Open Research Data Pilot, the European Commission has promoted the Research Data Management (RDM). This policy involves the development of data management plans (DMPs), as well as the deposit in open repositories of the data generated as a result of the research carried out following the FAIR principles (Research Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusi) with the aim of increasing the efficiency and transparency of the research through disseminating the results quickly and facilitating their reuse. More recently, national funding agencies have also joined these open data policies and compliance with FAIR principles.

2.2.2 IRBLleida Policy.

IRBLleida supports its research staff both in the development of data management plans and in the process of depositing data generated in FAIR open repositories.

- Presenting data 'FAIR'. For the deposit of data collections generated in research projects, it is recommended to use the repository “CORA.RDR”, which can be accessed through the UdL tool <https://biblioguies.udl.cat/dadesrecerca/dipositar>.
- Data management plan (DMP). For the elaboration of data management plans, the use of the application “CORA.eina DMP” is recommended, which can be accessed through the UdL tool <https://dmp.csuc.cat/>.
- IRBLleida will organize annually, together with the UdL, a training activity aimed at research staff for the use of the tool “CORA.eina DMP”, and the process of depositing data collections in the FAIR data repository “CORA.Repository of Research Data”.
- IRBLleida researchers who require the use of these tools for the first time can request an appointment with the management staff of the Project Unit (projects-irbllleida.cat) to receive personalized training on how to develop data management plans and/or carry out the deposit of the data generated as a result of their research.
- The IRBLleida Project Unit (projects@irbllleida.cat), in coordination with the UdL library, will be in charge of managing the deposit of the databases in the repository “CORA.Repository of Research Data”. To do this, the researchers responsible will be contacted to provide the necessary information for the corresponding deposit

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2.3 Citizen Science


2.3.1. Definition

Citizen science is an approach in which the non-scientific public actively participates in scientific research. It consists of the collaboration and contribution of non-professional or non-trained people scientifically in different aspects of the scientific process, such as data collection, information analysis, pattern identification or the resolution of scientific problems. Citizen science seeks to take advantage of the knowledge and experience of the community to address scientific challenges and generate new knowledge. In addition, it promotes the dissemination of science and citizen participation in decision-making related to scientific issues.

2.3.2. IRBLleida Policy

IRBLleida is committed to fostering the participation of society at different levels of research developed at the institute, as well as designing and developing new strategies to open this participation. The following actions are highlighted, some of which are already underway and others will be implemented in the short term:

- Seminar #WeAreResearch (#SomosInvestigación). This is an annual conference where, through an informal conversation between research staff and citizens, the active participation of society in science is promoted to promote more inclusive research and innovation with a relevant role of society in all phases of research and innovation. This activity has been carried out since 2019 and has recently been awarded by the Institut de Salut Carles III (ISCIII) in its 2022 edition (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v'kdk7hruayvc>).

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3. Follow-up


This scientific policy document will be accessible to research staff and citizens in general in the transparency section of the IRBLleida website (<https://www.irblleida.org/es/on us/transparency/>)

In order to evaluate the degree of implementation of the open science policy defined by IRBLleida, the Project Unit annually coordinates the collection of the following indicators:

- Number of publications derived from projects financed with public funds deposited in the CORA.PRC repository.
- Number of research databases from public-funded projects, available in the open data repository “CORA. Repository of Research Data”.
- Number of data plans made using the “CORA.eina DMP” tool.
- Number of training activities developed in open science.
- Average assessment of the training activities developed in open science.
- Number of projects and activities with the participation of social agents.

The results will be analyzed annually by the Steering Committee, and will be presented to the internal scientific committee. The IRBLleida management, if it considers it necessary, will propose the correction actions it deems necessary for an optimal implementation of the open science police.

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